

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend Paragraph [0001], page 1, as follows:

[0001] The present invention relates to improving a method for analyzing failures and more particularly to a method of a failure mode and effects analysis of a new process by systematically capturing knowledge from an existing process and applying the captured knowledge to the new process.

Please amend Paragraph [0004] as follows:

[0004] ~~A method for performing failure mode and effects analysis of an intended process includes gathering data related to failures occurring in a similar process. Then, potential failures are identified in the intended process by a first entity based on the gathered data. Finally, a failure mode and effects analysis is performed on the intended process by a second entity based on the potential failures identified by the first entity.~~

A method for systematically capturing knowledge from an existing process and applying the knowledge to assist in performing a failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA) on a related new process begins with the formation of a FMEA team for assigning responsibilities and determining at least one specific existing process appropriate for use in capturing relevant knowledge. Data relating to actual failures, their causes and known solutions for correcting the actual failures are gathered from the at least one existing process. Differences between the at least one existing process and the new process are analyzed to identify potential adverse impact on safety, quality, delivery cost or morale related to the new process. A draft FMEA is performed on the new process using learning captured from the gathered data and analyzed differences between the existing and new process. A process specific FMEA is then performed on the new process focusing on high priority issues having greatest impact on safety, quality, delivery, cost or morale identified using the draft FMEA. The FMEA team conducts a group validation of the process specific FMEA to detect and eliminate problems between steps of the new process. Management then reviews the validated

process specific FMEA, and the approved process specific FMEA is forwarded to a facility where the new process will be performed for use in taking preventative action to prevent potential failures in an order determined by results of the process specific FMEA.